

PORTOLA WELCOMES YOU

Take a walk on the wild side of the northern Sierra Nevada away from the congestion of well traveled resorts and touristy paths to savor nature at its best!

You are invited to take pleasure in the plumage of Plumas County's 100 + bird species and much more! Hike in pristine forests; marvel at dazzling displays of wildflowers; reel in your trophy trout at picturesque Lake Davis. Paddle on the "Wild and Scenic" Feather River. Take in the soothing sights and sounds of wildflowers and wildlife as you stroll or bike along the Portola River Walk.

Portola welcomes your visit whether you seek relaxation of strikingly scenic mountains, or the excitement of boating, fishing and wildlife. This northeastern California region features diverse nature recreation at alpine lakes, rich marshes, and mountain valleys and peaks.

Each season offers a place to get away from the crowds, reconnect with the wild, and enjoy nature at your own pace.

Your gateway to the outstanding nature of the Sierra is Portola with its charming historic town, cabins, motels, inns, chalet and camping to choose from. Distinctive attractions are nearby for the family to enjoy. Treat yourself to a unique, spectacular getaway – to the wild and hidden side of the majestic Sierra Nevada.



EVENTS

- Jan–Mar** Sled Dog Races, Lake Davis
Longboard Ski Races, Johnsville
Snowmobile Poker Run, Lake Davis
- April** Open Season on Stream Trout Fishing
Cabin Fever Quilt Show, Portola
Portola Art Show
- May** Trout Unlimited Children's Fishing Derby, Graeagle
Memorial Day Wildflower Walk, Road A23 at Bridge
Bicycle Club Races & Rides – many locations
Mohawk Valley Art Show, Graeagle
Wildlife & Wildflower Art Show, Portola
- June** Birds, Barns and Barbecue, Calpine, Sierra Valley
Lake Davis Fishing Derby
- July** Fourth of July – parade, fireworks, Graeagle
- August** Portola Railroad Days – 4 day community festival
- Sept** Rotary Fly-In and Breakfast, Beckwourth
- Nov** Open House, Crafts, Christmas tree permits, Portola
- Dec** Santa Train Rides, W.P. Railroad Museum, Portola

Local Attractions

W. P. Railroad Museum – Run your own locomotive; seasonal caboose rides on weekends

Williams House Museum – A 1931 log house, California Historical Register

Historic Commercial Street, pool, playgrounds, Portola

Jim Beckwourth Museum – 1850 cabin of renowned African American explorer

Sierra Hot Springs – Resort and hot springs

Pitchfork Cattle Company, Vinton – Tours and lunch; 100 year old ranch

Guided horsebacking riding, Graeagle and Clio

Championship golf courses in the beauty of the pines



Contact Information

Portola Visitor Center

Williams House Museum
424 E. Sierra Ave., P.O. Box 1094
Portola, CA. 96122-1094
Phone: (530) 832-0671
Email: visitportola@psln.com
www.portolavisitorscenter.com

California Department of Fish and Game –

General Info: (530) 832-4680
Fishing Info: (530) 832-4067

Plumas County Visitors Bureau

www.plumascounty.org
info@plumascounty.org
(800) 326-2247 (530) 283-6345

Eastern Plumas Chamber of Commerce

(800) 995-6057 (530) 836-6811

Contributing Groups:

Portola Visitor Center,
City of Portola
Plumas County Visitors Bureau
Plumas Audubon Society
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Portola Business Improvement
Association

PORTOLA

**GATEWAY TO THE NORTHERN SIERRA NEVADA
AND FEATHER RIVER COUNTRY**



**A GUIDE TO YOUR NATURE EXPERIENCE IN
EASTERN PLUMAS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**



Immerse yourself in SOLITUDE



Wildlife Viewing Tips

1. Walk softly, keep your voices low and keep your distance. If wildlife change their behavior, become agitated or stare at you, you are likely too close.
2. Move slowly and quietly so you don't disrupt wildlife behavior. Scattering herds or flocks causes them to use up valuable energy that is needed for migration, nesting or breeding.
3. Tune up your senses. Cup your hands behind your ears to capture more sounds. Scan the horizon or trees for movement or odd shapes.
4. Allow wild animals to forage for their natural foods – please do not feed.
5. Look for and identify tracks in the snow.



Responsible & Safe Angling

1. Fishing regulations help people protect and share the resource. Your part is vital to ensure healthy fisheries and environments.
2. Transport and dumping of fish and other organisms are harmful to nature and is against the law. Call 888-DFG-CALTIP to report violations. Clean your boots after fishing.
3. Please remove all gear and fishing tackle when leaving an area.
4. Fixing leaky boats prevents oil and gas from entering our waterways.
5. Use a walking staff in fast water, and use slip-resistant shoes.



Wings



GRACE

the skies...

trumpeting

CALLS *await*



Lake Davis, Portola

Plumas National Forest (530) 836-2575

Marvel at snowmelt creeks full of spring’s spawning rainbow trout. Known for its trophy trout, this scenic lake also offers exceptional wildlife viewing, boating and snow sports.

Spring: bald eagle, osprey, white pelicans, waterfowl, mountain quail, songbirds, bats

Summer: osprey, goshawk, waterfowl, owls, white pelicans, blue grouse, eared grebe, avocet, pileated and other woodpeckers, ibis, stilt, songbirds, deer, beavers, chipmunks, bats

Fall: tundra swan, merganser and other ducks, hawks, bald eagle, golden eagle, common loon, chickadees, black bear

Winter: Access via Portola to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing from Highway 70 to West St./Lake Davis Rd.; loon, bald eagle, owls, waterfowl, shrike

Parking access is at seven lakeside locations with one dump station. Family camping (three campgrounds) , four boat ramps, nine fishing accesses. Drive, hike or bike to Smith Peak’s spectacular lookout and lake loop.

Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District

Blairsden (530) 836-2575

Rugged canyons and boulder strewn rivers meander through mixed coniferous forest. Alpine trails cut along spring-fed creeks and wind by backcountry lakes.

Several large, accessible and uncrowded lakes and valleys provide diverse, year-round recreation including camping, boating, swimming, picnicking, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, hiking, OHV and biking trails.

Winter offers cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, ice skating, canoeing, camping and tree cutting (with permit.)

Sierra Institute Center of Forestry offers educational tours (May–October) for the public showcasing innovative forest and watershed projects in Plumas County. Visit www.sierrainstitute.us or call (530) 284-1022 for information.

UNIQUE WILDLIFE



Sierra Valley: A Birding Heaven

Nationally recognized by the Audubon Society

Experience the wildlife in the Sierra Nevada’s largest and most diverse sub-alpine valley. Great viewing (over 100 species!) along Marble Hot Springs Road (by bridge), in the heart of the valley. Gaze at the dazzling displays of over 200 kinds of wildflowers. Thanks to local conservation practices, the landscapes and waterways offer a home to magnificent wildlife and wildflowers.

Picturesque barns help uncover a long-standing history of Swiss-Italian settlers whose families still ranch the valley.

Spring and Summer Birds: sandhill cranes, black crowned night herons, bald eagle, yellow-headed blackbirds, white faced ibis, avocets, stilts, snipe, white pelican, waterfowl, phalarope

Fall and Winter Birds: bald and golden eagle, peregrine falcon, rough-legged hawk, ferruginous hawk, white fronted geese



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Must See Wildlife Adventures

A Smithneck Creek Wildlife Area – forests and meadows; mountain bluebirds, raptors, mule deer, trout fishing

B Antelope Valley Wildlife Area – aspens, pines, wildflowers, creeks, rough legged and ferruginous hawks mountain quail, woodpeckers, goshawk, bald eagle, prairie falcon, long eared owl, crossbills; recovering from 1994 fire; road (rough) connects with Smithneck Creek

C Lake Basin Recreation Area – blue grouse, Townsend solitaires, grosbeaks, tanagers, woodpeckers, bats, marmot, butterflies, wildflowers, Frazier Falls, mountain biking to Mills Peak Lookout, Red Fir Nature Trail

D Plumas-Eureka State Park – historical museum, sub-alpine lakes, waterfalls, stream fishing, camping, old mines

E Crocker Meadows Wildlife Area – mix of chaparral, aspen and pines; golden eagle, mountain quail, hawks, black bear, mule deer, wildflowers, pinnacles and rocky outcrops

F Frenchman Lake – eagle, osprey, pelican, swan and many waterfowl and deer; excellent fishing and boating; mountain biking to Dixie Mountain lookout and Crystal Peak vista; family and group campgrounds; two boat launches, five fishing accesses

G Watch Deer Migrations – Look for herds in pastures:

- Dotta Saddle – north of Beckwourth (Nov)
- southern Sierra Valley by Loyalton (Mar)
- Hwy 70 between Portola-Hallelujah Junction (Nov)

Fantastic Fishing

Trout fishing at its best! From Rainbow to Brook to Brown, and Eagle Lake Rainbow to Mackinaw – landing your trophy will be your catch of a lifetime.

Scenic Lake Davis, Frenchman Lake, alpine Gold Lake and eight others in the Lakes Basin, Antelope Lake and Middle Fork Feather River offer excellent boat ramps and shoreline access.

For more information, contact Trout Unlimited at www.featherrivertu.org and Plumas National Forest.

Wildflower Viewing: Mountain Gardens

The rare Sierra Valley Mousetail and sand lilies are among the diverse and plentiful flowers blooming in Sierra Valley. June is gorgeous at Lake Davis with the camas, lilies and yellow bells. June and July are fantastic at Lakes Basin and Crocker Meadows.



Kayaking and Canoeing Gentle Waters

Paddle on Lake Davis, Frenchman Lake, Lakes Basin and on the Middle Fork Feather River. Launch at Highway 70 and Road A-23 near Portola, and put out in Portola or paddle from the Clio Bridge to Graeagle. Check in advance on water conditions to ensure a safe trip.

Autumn Scenic Drives

Leaf-Peeper Reports at www.plumascounty.org

- Portola – Lake Davis Rd. and Grizzly Rd. Loop
- Rocky Point Rd. in Portola
- Dixie Valley
- Frenchman Lake Road (paved)
- Beckwourth-Genesee Rd.from Highway 70
- Gold Lake Highway into Lakes Basin and Frazier Falls Road

Photos by Carl Raymond Piesch; Darold Gress, Shannon Morrow, Tom Rath, Suzi Brakken, Bob Battagin, Ray Rychnovsky, courtesy of Plumas County Visitors Bureau; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

